

# SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL @ HALONG

# NEWSLETTER

April—May 2019

## VISION

To be an educational institution of excellence from Kindergarten to University Foundation level combining Eastern Values with an International education to produce global citizens.

## MISSION

To provide quality educational programmes in a creative and challenging learning environment, embracing innovative teaching pedagogies to empower every student to become a life-long learner.

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## School-Wide Learning Goals

At Singapore International School we seek to nurture students who are:

- **Academic Achievers**
- **Confident Communicators**
- **Critical Thinkers**
- **Technologically literate**
- **Active, Responsible & Global citizens**

## Principal's News

Dear Parents and Students,

As a teacher of many years it is one of the rewards of this position to see the achievements and progress of young people. Most teachers aim to make the world a better place and we hope that our efforts do make a difference in the long term. I see growth in our children in many areas of development and this is why I am a strong proponent of holistic education which we strongly promote.



The KinderWorld model of Explicit Teaching combined with further problem based pedagogy is one of the best approaches I have experienced in teaching. It is successful at raising the base knowledge and skills of students and thus they can become *academic achievers* but also allows them to become *critical thinkers* in line with our School-Wide Learner Goals. With strong curriculum content from Singapore, Australia and the UK this further develops their readiness for overseas institutions in becoming *Global Citizens*. But to achieve this we need parents help and support.

Can I also remind parents to collect children by 1600 hrs from Primary or 1530 hrs in KIK to help our staff, thus avoiding after school late fees. Alternatively, there may be some options within the CCA programme which has excellent activities to support your child for this after school issue for some parents.

This is a long journey together and part of this journey is instituting a visionary action plan to ensure we are a **great** school not just a good school. In this process we are forming smart structures and routines such as enforcing tidy uniform and the response has been fabulous as students are seen wearing sparkling clean uniforms lately. This shows pride in our school and is just one indicator of progress so please continue this cooperation and support so we can achieve more and continue to be successful in all.

Have a great term ahead.

### Message from the Office Manager

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

The last term of Semester II has begun and all our primary and secondary students are studying very hard for this semester's exams. I wish all students good health in preparing for these exams and hope they achieve good marks in all subjects.

In teaching our students about the Earth and protecting the environment, we held some interesting events for both KIK and SIS.

The KIK students went to Tuan Chau Park to see the Dolphin show. They learnt about the life of some animals in our oceans and the dreadful effects of throwing garbage into the sea.

The SIS students went to visit the Vegetable Village in Quang Yen town, Quang Ninh province and had a whole day to experience how modern farmers work. They improved their skills in how to garden, take care of plants, and especially vegetables. They learned about the importance of vegetables and other plants to life. They also observed how hard the farmers work to produce products. We hope this will help them appreciate their food more.

We are also aiming to bring an increasing number of useful programmes into the curriculum for our students in this term so that students will have more opportunities to explore and gain greater knowledge and skills thus making them more global in their perspectives and more ready for international education in later life.

**ALL** students are attending swimming lessons for life skills as well as sport and recreation this term. The aim of the swimming course is to help students gain skills which will protect them when they are in a sea or river. It trains them physically and is a fabulous exercise. Parents should encourage their child to join the swimming lessons with excitement and motivation and understand the vital importance of being able to swim.

Finally, the office team, are always willing to answer all questions from parents 24/7, so please don't hesitate to contact us anytime for any matters related to the study of your children.



*KIK's students watching the dolphin show*



*SIS's students experience "One day as a farmer"*



*KIK's students are excited about the swimming lesson*

### SIS Students Fascinated by Web Design

Dear Parents and Students,

A few weeks ago, students in Years 3-7 were introduced to the concept of producing Web sites for the first time in their ICT classes. Although this is an extremely relevant computing topic nowadays, it can be rather boring, so I was nervous about students rejecting it as

too technical or simply too hard to grasp. But I noticed something which I was able to use to my advantage. I saw how students try to steal a few minutes of class time to watch videos on topics that interest them, usually football, pop music, or animals.

Instead of focusing on the boring technical details of producing Web sites, I introduced the technical aspects slowly, one piece at a time, then allowed students to apply the knowledge however they wanted. This meant that students could make Web sites about *their* favorite K-Pop act, *their* favorite football team, or even *their* favorite animals. Students have now acquired an impressive breadth of knowledge about Web publishing, and as well have generated an excellent portfolio of work.

Several students are now interested in learning how to put their Web pages on the actual Internet, and how to make their sites function more like the big commercial sites they are more familiar with, as our "sites" were not published to the Internet. Thus we are planning to serve this curiosity on a more lasting basis, and our ICT support staff is upgrading the software on our lab PCs to allow for a development environment that simulates a real Web server. Furthermore, we are exploring how we can provide more lab time to interested students even as we move onto other topics in their ICT classes. This is one part of our commitment to exploring new solutions that can enhance our STEM related offerings at SIS Ha Long.

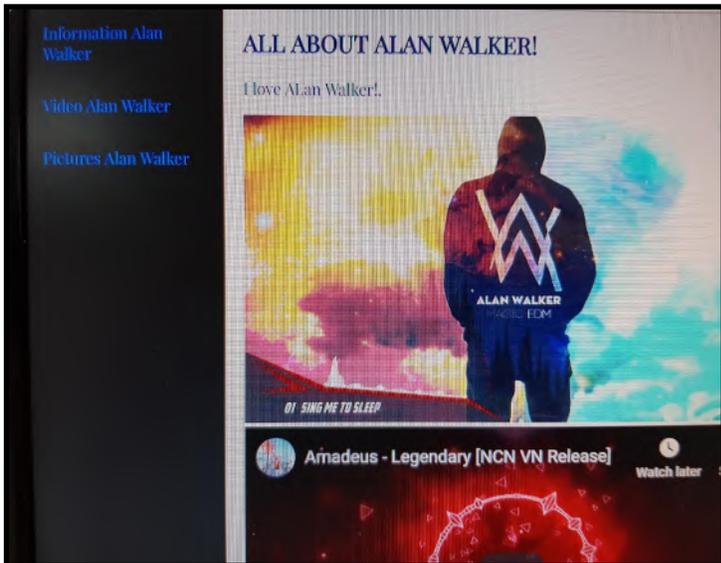
Respectfully,



Mr Brendan giving guidance to a student on her design



A student very proud of her efforts in producing her website



A website made by a Year 4 student about pop artist Alan Walker, with custom fonts imported from Google and HTML-embedded video

**Message from KIK**

**Dear Parents and Beloved Students,**

KIK students have experienced many interesting activities during April. Everyday in going to school, students have discovered more with new topics, new knowledge and new skills.



*Our KIK students proudly displaying some of their craft creations*

From the beginning of April, the themes being discussed to all grades were about water and the water cycle, and Summer. They talked, explored and completed interesting experiments about these topics. Also in April, some classes started the swimming curriculum for PE. Ms. Jessie, the PE teacher, class teacher and nurse always participated in the swimming lessons with the students to ensure the best outcomes so that the swimming lessons of KIK were safe, effective and the children were excited to do.



*Our KIK students engaged in STEM activities*

The excursion to watch the dolphin show in Tuan Chau was also a remarkable venture in April. Associated with the theme of sea animals, teachers of KIK and admin successfully organized an excursion to enlighten this topic more. This was a great opportunity for KIK students to observe and learn about marine species. This was also an opportunity to help them increase in confidence when participating in collective activities and become confident communicators.



*Prep students in swimming lesson*

In May, KIK students will focus on practicing for the most important event of the school year which is the Concert and Graduation Day. All students, teachers and all KIK staffs are very excited to prepare for this event.



Weekly newsletters and photos of KIK students are updated by email every week. If parents should have any concerns, please feel free to contact your class teacher through email at any-



Emphasis has been placed on canteen etiquette and improving social interactions during meal times recently



Students above producing pickles at the high tech farm day

**Vietnamese Programme in Full Swing**

**Dear Parents & Students,**

Students have been actively participating in learning and concentrating on developing their cooperative skills through various team work projects. They have been very active and excited to do this and it has improved their progress

in making them confident communicators. It has been wonderful to see the improvements in the joining of group activities from both teachers and pupils, considering all students have been recently studying intently to prepare for the semester 2 examinations.

During April SIS's students attended the excursion to the Vegetable Garden at the new technology farm of Tien An, Quang Yen, where the students had access to practical learning on modern agricultural techniques including net planting, and simple gardening methods. The students experienced gardening, produced floating cakes, made pickles and collected vegetables for home.

The semester 2 examinations are for Primary from 6th May to 10th May and Secondary from 6th May to the 16th May. During May we will also complete the Vietnamese syllabus and concentrate on the international programme with work in STEM and CREST awards. We will practise for the concert in June whilst improving English in all subjects. We will also hold the Ho Chi Minh's Pioneer's Organization Initiation ceremony.

This time of the year the weather is changing erratically, so parents please pay attention to make sure your children are in good health and encourage them to do well in their upcoming exams.

**Warmest Regards,  
Ms Nguyen Thi Lieu**





*EFL students receiving extra assistance to reach the quality levels required for success in the English curriculum*

### New EFL & KIK Prep Teacher

**Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,**

My name is Miss Hannah Godlonton and I am the new English Prep and EFL teacher. I am South African and arrived in Vietnam at the beginning of Term 4 after I took a trip here initially as a tourist and loved it! I felt a desire to work and study in a newly developing and dynamic country that is clearly advancing at an amazing pace. I love teaching and wish to help children progress in their learning in an international setting.



I studied primary education and specialized in Mathematics, Science and English. I also completed a Teaching as a Foreign Language certification through the Theater and Performance Course in Italy, where I worked as a summer camp tutor. I have previously taught in England, Italy and most recently at Llandudno Primary School in South Africa. In South Africa I live near the beach and love the ocean, as well as traveling and photography.

I was especially recruited by SIS Ha Long to help support the development of English with the transition of Prep children into Primary and also as a special support for students that need extra help during lessons and after school. Now we have started with the theme of emotion, looking at different ways to express ourselves and how we are feeling. As we progress we will be working on conversational skills and sentence construction.

I am very excited to be a part of SIS and look forward to the adventures that lie ahead. I am working with the EFL learners to improve their confidence in themselves and in their English abilities,



*A Year 2 student receiving individual attention as part of very small groups*



*Excited Year 2 EFL students using "Show-me" boards*

SIS Hạ Long Year 4 & 5 vs DTD Hạ Long Year 4 & 5

Message from the Coach, Mr Liam

Dear Parents and Students,

On Thursday 25 April, the football club had the privilege of hosting Doan Thi Diem Ha Long School (DTD) for a combined Year 4 and 5 football match. It was significant as it was the first time the school has taken part in an inter-school sports fixture.

Playing against an established team with much more experience was always going to be a challenge for our students. Although the result did not go our way, there were a lot of positives to take out of the game. We were able to enjoy being active outdoors and make new friends while demonstrating our school virtues of cooperation, confidence and respect. We are looking forward to the return fixture at DTD later this term.

I would like to thank all the parents, who took time out of their busy day to support their children, and the rest of the school for their passionate support.



Our sporting heroes!



Shot of the team in action!

